

NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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29 Youth Selected to Participate in the Indiana Point of Youth Program

Indianapolis, IN. –Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) Executive Director, Neil Moore today announced that 29 youth residing in the Hoosier state have been selected for the 2008-2009 Indiana Point of Youth (POY) class. The students come from all regions of Indiana and represent both rural and urban communities.

"ICJI is proud to administer a program that encourages young people to foster relationships and build resources within their communities. These skills are especially critical since young people who begin service at an early age are more likely to also serve as adults," said Executive Director, Moore.

POY is a youth led advisory group that lends advice to the Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana and other policy-makers on substance abuse and underage drinking. The program is largely funded by federal dollars granted to ICJI from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

In July 2008, ICJI hosted a three day retreat where POY students were charged with outlining their priority areas for the 2008-2009 year in a Statewide Action Plan (SWAP). Under the guidance of their adult advisors, the youth collectively decided to focus on reducing underage drinking, the abuse of prescription and over the counter drugs, and school drug testing. POY members work collaboratively to develop and implement comprehensive action plans that specifically focus on issues that are unique to their communities.

Attached is a list of the 2008-2009 POY class. For more information on POY, or on how Indiana teens can get involved, please call (317) 232-1289 or visit www.in.gov/cji.

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute serves as the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety, and victim services. The Institute develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies.

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